AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inventory control comprising the steps of:

    providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

        an RFID identification tag code field,
        a control value,
        an acceptable control value range, and
        an out of range action;

    detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein detecting changes in inventory item attributes includes reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag associated with the inventory item;

    recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range action, wherein detecting changes, recording detected changes, comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';

detecting changes includes reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'utilization';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an inventory storage location; and

recording detected changes comprises incrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

recording detected changes comprises decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:
       a control value unit field set to 'days', and
       an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered
       inventory;

detecting changes comprises:

    reading from a clock the current date, and

    calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current
    date and the inventory date; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the age of the inventory item in the control value.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

11.   (Currently Amended) A system of inventory control, the system comprising a computer processor, a computer memory operatively coupled to the computer processor, the computer memory having disposed within it computer program instructions capable of:

providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

an RFID identification tag code field,
a control value,
an acceptable control value range, and
an out of range action;

detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in inventory item attributes include computer program instructions capable of reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag associated with the inventory item;

recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range action, wherein detecting changes, recording detected changes, comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';

computer program instructions capable of detecting changes includes computer program instructions capable of reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale; and

computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions capable of storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.

14.   (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

computer program instructions capable of reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

computer program instructions capable of reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

computer program instructions capable of reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

computer program instructions capable of calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions capable of storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

15.   (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'utilization';

computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes computer program instructions capable of detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an inventory storage location; and

computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions capable of incrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

16. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes computer program instructions capable of detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions capable of decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

17. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:
    a control value unit field set to 'days', and
    an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered inventory;

computer program instructions capable of detecting changes comprises:

    computer program instructions capable of reading from a clock the current date, and

    computer program instructions capable of calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current date and the inventory date; and

computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions capable of storing the age of the inventory item in the control value.

18. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein computer program instructions capable of taking action comprises computer program instructions capable of emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

19. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein computer program instructions capable of taking action comprises computer program instructions capable of emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

20. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein computer program instructions capable of taking action comprises computer program instructions capable of sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product of inventory control, the computer program product embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program product comprising:

computer program instructions for providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

an RFID identification tag code field,

a control value,

an acceptable control value range, and

an out of range action;

computer program instructions for detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein computer program instructions for detecting changes in inventory item attributes include computer program instructions for reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag associated with the inventory item;

computer program instructions for recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

computer program instructions for comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

computer program instructions for taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range action, wherein detecting changes, recording detected changes, comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';

computer program instructions for detecting changes includes computer program instructions for reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale; and

computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions for storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.

24. (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

computer program instructions for detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

computer program instructions for reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

computer program instructions for reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

computer program instructions for reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

computer program instructions for calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

25. (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'utilization';

computer program instructions for detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes computer program instructions for detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an inventory storage location; and

computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions for incrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

26. (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

computer program instructions for detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes computer program instructions for detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises computer program instructions for decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

27.   (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

   the inventory item attributes further comprise:
   a control value unit field set to 'days', and

   an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered
   inventory;

   computer program instructions for detecting changes comprises:

   computer program instructions for reading from a clock the current date,
   and

   computer program instructions for calculating the age of the inventory
   item in dependence upon the current date and the inventory date; and

   computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises
   computer program instructions for storing the age of the inventory item in the
   control value.

28.   (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
   computer program instructions for taking action computer program instructions
   for emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control
   value is outside the acceptable control value range.

29.   (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
   computer program instructions for taking action comprises computer program
   instructions for emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the
   inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value
   range.

30.   (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein computer program instructions for taking action comprises computer program instructions for sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.